

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Children's Select Committee**

**28 June 2021**

#### **DfE Changes – Updates June 2021**

##### **£483 million investment to boost and improve school buildings**

1. Pupils across England are set to benefit from improved school facilities, thanks to almost half a billion pounds being invested in school buildings this year.
2. £483 million from the Condition Improvement Fund will go to 1,199 schools. The North East and North West are set to receive the largest allocation of funding across all the English regions, with £93 million for 273 successful schools.
3. Many of the projects funded by Condition Improvement Fund will lead to improved classrooms, more energy efficient buildings and will reduce energy bills for schools – helping to meet the government's net zero target. Full details can be found here: [Link](#)

##### **More support for further education teachers to develop**

4. Further education teaching staff will soon benefit from more high-quality professional development opportunities, so they can continue to deliver top class education and training to young people and adults.
5. The new £9.5 million FE Professional Development Grants pilot launched today (18 June) will support the commitment made in the government's Skills for Jobs White Paper to strengthen the professional development on offer to the workforce and boost teaching practices. Full details can be found here: [Link](#)

##### **Pupils to benefit from better quality PE and sport next year**

6. Primary school children in England will benefit from higher quality PE lessons and better sport opportunities, the Education Secretary has announced today (17 June).
7. Backed by a £320 million investment, the PE and Sport Premium will encourage children to play more sport, increase their social skills, and improve their physical activity after lockdown. Schools will also be able to improve the quality of their teaching and make longer-term, sustainable changes to their lessons. Full details can be found: [Link](#)

##### **£16 million to support young people with a social worker**

8. The Government has today (Wednesday 16 June) announced more than £16 million for councils to extend the role of Virtual School Heads from September this year, meaning there will be a local champion for children with a social worker in every local authority in England. This will ensure that more focus is placed on children with a social worker, targeting support earlier on in these young people's lives and helping improve how they engage with education.
9. A further £3 million in funding has also been confirmed for a new pilot, where Virtual School Heads will support looked-after children and care leavers in post-16

education. Launching in October, the pilot will enable Virtual School Heads to expand their work into further education settings. Full details can be found: [Link](#)

### **Education Secretary outlines priorities on improving pupil outcomes**

10. Speaking at the Festival of Education 2021 on 16 June, Gavin Williamson set out his commitment to levelling up opportunities across the country for young people. Full details of the speech can be found here: [Link](#)

### **Disapplication notice: school inspections legislation changes**

11. Secretary of State for Education issues a 15th notice about changes to state-funded school inspection requirements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Education Act 2005: school inspection disapplication notice July 2021 can be found here: [Link](#)

### **Education Secretary set improving pupil outcomes as top priority**

12. Improving outcomes for young people – wherever they live – has been hailed by Education Secretary Gavin Williamson as central to the Government's plans for building back better from the pandemic today (16 June).
13. Speaking at the Festival of Education, he explained how the Government will level up opportunity for young people, through strong multi-academy trusts, high-quality teacher training, good behaviour management and investment to help pupils catch-up. Full details can be found here: [Link](#)

### **£3.4 million to expand The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in schools**

14. More pupils from the most deprived areas of England will be able to start The Duke of Edinburgh's Award thanks to a funding boost of £3.4 million from Government, helping more young people to access volunteering and extra-curricular learning.
15. In the week that would have marked the late Duke of Edinburgh's 100th birthday, the Department for Education has today (Sunday 13 June) announced it will work with the Award he set up to expand opportunities to up to 291 more schools not currently delivering it, enabling access to young people who may previously have faced barriers to taking part. Full details can be found here: [Link](#)

### **Wellbeing for education recovery: grant determination letter for 2021 to 2022**

16. The wellbeing for education recovery project builds on the support put in place under the Wellbeing for Education Return Scheme in 2020 and aims to provide additional support to state-funded schools and colleges. The grant determination letter for 2021 to 2022 is now available, full details can be found here: [Link](#)

### **Huge expansion of tutoring in next step of education recovery**

17. As part of the next step in the government's plans to boost education recovery, a total of £1.4 billion is being invested, including £1 billion to support up to 6 million, 15-hour tutoring courses for disadvantaged school children, as well as an expansion of the 16-19 tuition fund, targeting key subjects such as maths and English.
18. £400 million will help give early years practitioners and 500,000 school teachers across the country training and support, and schools and colleges will be funded to

give some year 13 students the option to repeat their final year. Full details can be found here: [Link](#)

### **COP26 launches environment education packs for UK schools and students**

19. Schools across the UK are being encouraged to start a conversation on climate change with their students, ahead of the UK hosting global climate summit COP26 later this year, as the Together for Our Planet Schools Pack launches today (Thursday 10 June).
20. The pack, which is hosted on the COP26 website and sent to UK schools, is designed to engage students on climate action, encourage conversations about tackling climate change, and help students learn more about the COP26 summit in Glasgow this year. Full details can be found here: [Link](#)